

The Status Report

December 2007 | Volume 3, Issue 10

Charles F. Hurley Building, 19 Staniford St., 6th Floor, Boston, MA 02114
Web: www.mass.gov/women Phone: 617-626-6520 E-Mail: mcsw@state.ma.us



Happy Holidays!



MWRRN Seeks Providers to Augment Statewide Resource Database

Massachusetts Women's



mcswnetwork.com
Brought to you by the
Massachusetts Commission on
the Status of Women

In October 2006 the MCSW launched the Massachusetts Women's Resource & Referral Network (MWRRN), a comprehensive online database featuring profiles of over 2,000 service providers throughout the Commonwealth.

Accessed on the Web at www.mcswnetwork.com, the MWRRN allows users to search for what they need by geographic region and/or service area or topic either from their home computers, or in the case of those without computers, at public libraries, colleges, community centers, etc.

One of the charges of the MCSW is to serve as a clearinghouse for information on issues pertaining to women and the MWRRN is our way of providing this service. The

MWRRN is continuously augmented and improved over time and to that end we are currently seeking local, community, regional, statewide and in some cases federal resources and providers. This includes, but is not limited to, direct service organizations for such issues as domestic violence, cancer prevention, business networking, GBLT concerns, and health care.

Creating your own profile is fast and easy. Just visit www.mcswnetwork.com and click on the "Register a Provider" link on the left hand side of the page. From there, a form requesting information about your organization will open for you to fill out. Once that is complete, hit the "Submit" button at the bottom and an email will be sent to us requesting the approval of your organization. Please allow *at least* 24 hours for our staff to approve your listing. Once it has been approved, you will be able to access your profile and update it at your leisure.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your organization's profile or the MWRRN in general, please contact Program Coordinator Kim Sebastiao at 617-626-6521 or Kimberly.Sebastiao@state.ma.us.

Inside This Issue

Executive Director's Corner	2
Regional Council Updates	3
Commissioner Corner	3
Gift Giving Ideas	4
Upcoming Events	4

Executive Director's Corner



Ken Burns

Last week I had the good fortune to be the guest of President Mary Fifeild of Bunker Hill Community College at a luncheon for documentary film maker and historian extraordinaire Ken Burns. Burns was on campus as part of the college's great "Compelling Conversations" Speakers Series which is a wonderful free resource for college students and staff, and community members. It was an honor and a privilege to participate in this intimate opportunity to meet and hear from Burns first hand before joining a crowd of hundreds to enjoy his more public presentation. Given his impressive successes, Burns remains a down to earth, genuine, open, passionate man who possesses a mind boggling wealth of knowledge and insight.

While Burns is best known for his PBS series' on the Civil War, Baseball and his latest work *The War*, which chronicles what it was really like for those who experienced World War II, I was able to applaud him on behalf of the 3.3 million Massachusetts women for his production of *"Not for Ourselves Alone, The Story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony"*.

The film showcases how these two female pioneers began the women's rights movement through their relentless commitment to women's suffrage. The film documents how on Nov. 2, 1920, over eight million American women voted for the first time in history. Although Thomas Jefferson had proclaimed equality the bedrock of American government, it had taken 144 years for women to achieve full citizenship. Stanton and Anthony, the two women who had fought the longest for women's rights, did not live long enough to cast a ballot themselves.

In reflecting on Burns and his work, I was struck, in this season of giving and counting one's blessings, by the inspiration, the lessons and the motivation that he and his subjects continue to provide today.

Lessons learned: Many things worth having take a long time to obtain, but are definitely worth the wait. We cannot get discouraged, worn down or lose hope. The MCSW and many other organizations and individuals across the Commonwealth are actively engaged in important work that will positively contribute to the status of women in Massachusetts. For instance the Commission, former Lt. Governor Evelyn Murphy, the MA Coalition for Women's Wage Equality and others continue to strive to close the wage gap, which has been stuck for decades. In 2007, women continue to make an average of 77 cents to what their male counterparts make. Progress is slow and we know that change will not come overnight. It would be easy to let the barriers, setbacks and lack of forward movement stymie our efforts. The legislation process moves at a snail's pace, minds adapt slowly to change, and messages take years to become ingrained. Yet we must persevere as Stanton and Anthony did and draw strength and resolution from their powerful examples of what total dedication to a mission can reap.

Another lesson: We must honor through action the work, and not take for granted the dedication, of those who provided OUR rights and privileges. Too many women – single, married, young and old who still believe that women have no place in politics – are not exercising their right to vote. This is a huge injustice to the efforts of so many who imperiled themselves and those closest to them fighting for what we now enjoy.

During this special season, all of us at the MCSW wish you and yours hope, renewed commitment, inspiration, motivation and the realization of your individual and organizational dreams. Another lesson from Ken Burns – following your bliss is extremely rewarding, meaningful and empowering and brings gifts big and small.

Happy Holidays!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linda Brantley".

Linda Brantley
Executive Director

Commissioner Corner: Spotlight on Linda Cavaoli



Commissioner Linda Cavaoli was appointed to the MCSW by former Senate President Robert Travaglini in January 2006. Commissioner Cavaoli is currently serving as co-chair of the MCSW's Legislative Committee working to pass legislation that will benefit the women of the Commonwealth.

Cavaoli has served as Executive Director of the YWCA of Central Massachusetts since 1992. In this position, Linda reports to a 31-member board of directors and oversees the daily operations of a \$5.6 million non-profit organization dedicated to the empowerment of women and girls and the elimination of racism.

Cavaoli is active in the community and serves as a member on the board of directors of the United Way of Central Massachusetts and Edward Street Children's Services. She is also a member of the Martin Luther King Community Breakfast Committee, City Manager's Task Force on Bias and Hate Crimes, United Service Executives, and Worcester Women's History Project. In addition, she has served as regional chairman of the YWCAs of New England Council and is a member of the National Association of YWCA Executives. Currently Cavaoli is the Chair of the YWCA USA Regional Leadership Committee.

Before joining the YWCA, Cavaoli was the Senior Vice President of Marketing and Resource Development at the United Way of Central Massachusetts.

She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of New Hampshire and a MBA from Clark University. Linda and her husband John Medbury are the proud parents of five children and five grandchildren. Due to her involvement in raising her grandchildren, Cavaoli was instrumental in the Commission's efforts to encourage the passing of An Act Relative to Establishing the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Commission.

**You gain strength, courage,
and confidence by every experience in
which you really stop to look fear in the face.
You must do the thing which you
think you cannot do.
~ Eleanor Roosevelt**

Regional Councils Meet in Worcester and Cape Cod



*Sarah Cordoza
Duncan*

The MCSW continues to schedule and meet with its Regional Councils across the Commonwealth. On Thursday, November 29, women leaders convened at the Barnstable Town Hall as the Cape and Islands Regional Council. Amongst the many items discussed, the meeting's agenda included a conversation about establishing a local women's commission. The MCSW offered resources and guidance to support the Councils in these efforts. Members of the Council agreed to work with elected officials to submit legislation to establish a Cape and Island Women's Commission.

The MCSW will next meet with the Worcester Regional Council on Wednesday, December 5 at the Asa Water's Mansion in Millbury. The event will include Sarah Cordoza Duncan as a keynote speaker, addressing the audience on the issue of recognizing and harnessing female power.

For more information about the Regional Councils, please contact Jill Ashton 617-626-6525 or Jill.Ashton@state.ma.us.

Take Action. Get Educated. Get Involved.

If you are interested in becoming more involved in the movement to advance women in the Commonwealth you can start by attending any one of the number of events and meetings taking place across the state in the coming weeks.

Wednesday, December 5 (5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.): Worcester Regional Council Meeting

Location: Asa Waters Mansion (123 Elms Street, Milbury)

Details: The Worcester Regional Council will convene for its third meeting at the Asa Waters Mansion from 5:00 – 7:00. The evening will include a discussion about innovative programs to promote women's leadership, an opportunity to network with other attendees and an engaging presentation by Sara Cardoza Duncan. Ms. Duncan is a career strategist and a highly regarded workshop leader; she will be addressing the issue of women's power. For more information please contact MCSW Outreach Coordinator Jill Ashton at 617-626-6525 or jill.ashton@state.ma.us.

Tuesday, December 11 (7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.): Massachusetts Conference for Women

Location: Boston Convention & Exhibition Center (415 Summer Street, Boston)

Details: The Conference is a non-profit, non-partisan, one-day event where Massachusetts women can connect, learn practical and professional strategies from nationally recognized experts, and network with peers. For more information, or to register please visit www.maconferenceforwomen.org.

Monday, December 17 (3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.): Massachusetts Coalition for Women's Wage Equality Meeting

Location: Charles F. Hurley Building, Directors Conference Room 3rd Floor (19 Staniford Street, Boston)

Details: Members of the MA Coalition for Women's Wage Equality will meet to discuss next steps in passing wage equity-related legislation and hosting pay equity events. Anyone interested in joining this growing Coalition should contact MCSW Outreach Coordinator Jill Ashton at 617-626-6525 or jill.ashton@state.ma.us.

Gift Giving Ideas for the Holidays



Looking for just the right holiday gift for that someone on your list who already has everything? Why not make a donation in their name to the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women? It's fast, simple *and* thoughtful! Just log

on to <https://www.paybill.com/mcsw/>, click on Make a Donation and follow the instructions.

If you would like us to send an acknowledgement to the person your donation is in honor of, please email us at mcsw@state.ma.us with their name and address and the message you would like included with your acknowledgement.

A donation to a non-profit organization is always a thoughtful way to give a gift to that person on your list who doesn't really *need* anything. Everyone has a cause that they are passionate about so we hope you will consider donating to a non-profit organization that fits your needs. The following websites are wonderful resources to assist you in finding a non-profit near you:

- www.mcswnetwork.com
- www.maconferenceforwomen.org/conference/community.htm
- www.networkforgood.org

What You Need to Know About: Women & Poverty

Why is the face of poverty in old age today most often the face of a woman?

- Two-thirds of working women earn less than \$30,000 a year.
- Nearly half of all women work in low-paying jobs that do not offer any retirement plans or 401(k) plan.
- The median income in 2004 for retired women was \$12,080 compared to men's income of \$21,102.
- Social Security continues to be the only source of income for 30% of non-married women over 65 and 46% rely on it for 90% of their income.
- Women take an average 13 years out of the workforce for family care giving.

What Women Need to Understand About Retirement is a new easy-to-read seven chapter e-book full of information women (and men) need to know about planning for their financial future. It was developed jointly by the Heinz Family Philanthropies and the Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER). It is free and available on-line at: www.wiserwomen.org.

Commission Officers & Members

Ruth Bramson, Dover

Linda Cavaioli, Worcester

Gloria Coney, Vice Chair, Roxbury

Lianne Cook, Salem

Helen Corbett, Middleton

Erika Ebbel, Cambridge

Donna Finneran, Mattapan

Marianne Fleckner, Chair, Westford

Catherine Greene, Esq., Secretary, Brighton

Elizabeth H. Houlihan, Falmouth

Helen Jackson, MD, W. Roxbury

Jacqueline Lane, Sagamore

Angela Menino, Hyde Park

Carol Pimentel, New Bedford

Susana Segat, Cambridge

Madhu Sridhar, Andover

Greer Tan Swiston, Treasurer, Newton

Commission Staff

Linda Brantley, Executive Director

Jill Ashton, Outreach Coordinator

Kim Sebastiao, Program Coordinator

Darlene Kelter, Administrative Assistant

Mona Lindsey, Administrative Assistant

Commission Interns

Heather Panahi (UMASS–Boston)

Tsering Wangmo (Lesley University)

Mariely Mejia (Lesley University)

Kathryn Ring (Holy Cross)



19 Staniford St., 6th FL
Boston, MA 02114

Phone:

617.626.6520

Fax:

617.626.6530

E-Mail:

mcsw@state.ma.us

Web site:

www.mass.gov/women

**Do you have questions or comments about this
newsletter? If so, please contact**

MCSW@state.ma.us